

CLAIMS

1. An interchangeable footwear system comprising a shoe assembly including
 - (a) a base shoe
 - 5 (b) interchangeable covers in which any one of a plurality of said covers are adapted to allow fitting to said base shoe forming an assembly so as to change the appearance and use environment of said shoe assembly.
- 10 2. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 1 wherein said base shoe comprises a sole portion and an upper portion.
3. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 2 wherein said sole portion is provided with an upwardly extending perimeter rim portion.
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4. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 4 wherein said upwardly extending perimeter rim portion is provided with a first mating element.
5. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 4 wherein
20 said interchangeable covers are provided with a second mating element along the lower perimeter of said covers,
6. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 5 wherein said first mating element is female.

7. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 6 wherein said first mating element is male.
8. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 7 wherein said second mating element is male.
- 5 9. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 8 wherein said second mating element is female.
10. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 9 wherein said first and second mating elements are substantially V-shaped in section.
- 10 11. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 10 wherein said V-shaped sections of said mating elements are provided with matching protrusions and recesses so as to provide a snap-fit when said cover is assembled to said base shoe.
- 15 12. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 11 wherein said base shoes are provided in a range of shapes, and sizes.
13. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 12 wherein said covers are provided in a matching range of shapes and sizes adapted to fit said base shoes.
- 20 14. The interchangeable footwear system of claim 13 wherein said covers are provided in a range of colours and patterns.

15. The interchangeable footwear system of any preceding claim wherein said base shoe and said covers are made from any of a selection of materials, said selection including leather, canvas, rubber, plastic and other synthetic materials.
16. The interchangeable footwear system of any preceding claim wherein a one of said covers includes an indicia-receiving portion.
17. The interchangeable footwear system of Claim 16 wherein said indicia-receiving portion is adapted to display promotional indicia.
18. A method of altering the appearance of a shoe, said method comprising utilising the interchangeable footwear system of any preceding claim.